

Message Text

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ORIGIN AEC-11

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01

TRSE-00 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 SCI-06 ACDA-19 /085 R

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RPE

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R 282300Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 194127

EXCON

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM

SUBJ: COCOM TOLL ENRICHMENT PROCEDURES

REFS: A. OECD PARIS 23934

B. STATE 178782

C. COCOM DOC (73)DEF. AEL 1/2

D. COCOM DOC(73)PROC 18

E. COCOM DOC(73)1627

1. WE NOTE FROM RECORD OF DISCUSSION THAT JAPANESE RESERVED ON FRENCH PROPOSAL TO DELETE DEPLETED URANIUM FROM EMBARGO AND CANADIANS NOT READY. ASSUME US OBJECTION WILL ELIMINATE NEED FOR JAPANESE AND CANADIANS TO SHOW THEIR HAND. IF SO, USDEL SHOULD BILATERALLY SEEK POSITIONS OF JAPANESE AND CANADIANS ON FRENCH PROPOSAL.

2. STRATEGIC VALUE OF DEPLETED URANIUM IS AS STATED IN PARAS 3 AND 4 OF REF. B, NAMELY, DEPLETED URANIUM CAN BE USED AS FEED MATERIAL FOR URANIUM 235 (U-235 IS A FISSION-
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ABLE MATERIAL USED IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS), AND CAN BE USED AS

FERTILE MATERIAL IN BREEDER REACTORS. WHEN SO USED IN BREEDERS, DEPLETED URANIUM IS CONVERTED INTO PLUTONIUM. PLUTONIUM IS A FISSIONABLE MATERIAL LIKE URANIUM 235 AND IS USED FOR SIMILAR STRATEGIC PURPOSES. THEREFORE, INTENT OF LAST SENTENCE PARA 3, REF. B, IS TO POINT OUT THAT DEPLETED URANIUM IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE IT COULD BE USED AS ENRICHMENT PLANT FEED, AND IN FUTURE WHEN IT IS USED IN BREEDER REACTORS. THIS IS SAME ARGUMENT JAPANESE GAVE IN PARA 14, REF. C.

3. WE ARE NOT PREPARED AT THIS TIME TO TABLE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS TO LIBERALIZE EXPORTS OF DEPLETED URANIUM FOR NON-NUCLEAR PURPOSES. WE HAD HOPED TO HAVE THEM READY FOR NEXT LIST REVIEW. HOWEVER, IN GENERAL WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND IS TO PROPOSE SOME LIBERALIZATIONS TO DEPLETED URANIUM USED AS SHIELDING BY EXEMPTING FROM COCOM CONTROL CERTAIN PRESCRIBED QUANTITIES, AND BY INCREASING THE QUANTITIES SET FORTH IN SECTIONS (A) AND (B) OF THE AN TO AEL 1.

4. WITH REGARD TO US PROPOSAL ON TOLL ENRICHING SET FORTH IN REF. D, US WAS ATTEMPTING TO FIND MUTUALLY AGREEABLE SOLUTION WHICH WOULD CONTINUE TO RECOGNIZE NEED TO MAINTAIN EMBARGO CONTROLS OVER DEPLETED URANIUM BECAUSE OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE WHILE ATTEMPTING TO MINIMIZE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDENS AND DELAYS IN SECURING FORMAL COMMITTEE AD HOC EXCEPTION APPROVAL FOR TOLL ENRICHMENT CASES. IF THE COMMITTEE (AND PARTICULARLY THE FRENCH) ARE WILLING TO AGREE THAT IN ANY TOLL ENRICHMENT CASES UNDERTAKEN WITH THE USSR THEY WILL REMOVE ALL URANIUM FROM THE USSR AND THE BLOC, INCLUDING THE TAILS, AND RETURN IT TO EXPORTING COUNTRY OR SOME OTHER NON-BLOC COUNTRY, THE US IS WILLING TO FOREGO ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF THESE KINDS OF CASES TO THE COMMITTEE. OUR ACQUIESCENCE TO ACCEPTING SUCH A PROCEDURE IS PRIMARILY BASED ON COMMITTEE AGREEMENT THAT THE URANIUM INCLUDING THE TAILS WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE USSR AND THE BLOC. USDEL SHOULD NOT RPT NOT ACQUIESE TO PROPOSAL UNLESS THIS POINT CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED TO BY THE COMMITTEE. FURTHERMORE, USDEL SHOULD STATE THAT US ACQUIESCENCE TO PROCEDURE WITHOUT ADVANCED COMMITTEE CONFIDENTIAL

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NOTIFICATION SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS ANY LESSENING OF US CONCERN OVER DEPLETED URANIUM.

5. FINALLY, WITH REGARD TO ANTICIPATED GERMAN EXCEPTIONS REQUEST FOR TOLL ENRICHING IN USSR AS SET FORTH IN PARA 2, REF. E, DEL CAN STATE US HAS NO OBJECTIONS PROVIDED ALL URANIUM GERMANS SHIP TO USSR IS REMOVED FROM USSR AND BLOC, INCLUDING TAILS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: URANIUM, EXCEPTIONS LIST, EMBARGO LISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE194127
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JFKRATZ:MAR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1 GREGORY
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973092/aaaaabda.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN AEC
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. OECD PARIS 23934
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COCOM TOLL ENRICHMENT PROCEDURES
TAGS: ESTC, US, JA, CA, COCOM
To: OECD PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005